

The General Assembly Meets in Birmingham.

The history of the city of Birmingham, its magical growth from a village to a great industrial city of 140,000 people, is the history of the development of the marvelous resources of its district, a district wherein and tributary to it, are coal fields estimated by geologists as bearing 68,000,000 tons, and known ore deposits which will supply all the furnaces now in blast in the district for a period of 360 years. As the district is now producing 2,000,000 tons of pig iron and 700,000 tons of steel annually, one may get an idea of the magnitude of the mineral resources of the Birmingham district and the great future in store for it, the more so when it is considered that the total known ore supply of other regions in the United States is estimated to be exhausted within the next fifty years.

Yet these great deposits of iron ore and coal do not represent the entire mineral resources of the district. Within its borders, associated with the ore deposits and coal measures and in separate layers are found immense quantities of limestones, sandstones, clays, dolomite and marble. The limestone, besides its other uses, furnishes the important material for fluxes in the iron furnaces and the others yielding the material for the manufacture of building stones, bricks, lime, cement and pottery.

The term "Birmingham district" as herein used applies to the immediate industrial district in Jefferson county, of which Birmingham is the center, not only by location but industrially and commercially as well.

For while many of the iron furnaces, steel mills, rolling mills and other industrial plants, and, of course, all the coal and ore mines of the district are outside the city limits, the great corporations operating these mines and plants have their headquarters in the city; and the 50,000 men employed in the district spend most of their wages, amounting to \$4,000,000 monthly, in the shops and business houses of Birmingham.

Birmingham Proper.

Birmingham, the city proper, has rapidly expanded during the last few years, until now it covers an area of 48 square miles. At the same time it has fully responded to the demands of its environments and moulded itself into a metropolis able to fill any requirements which its growing industries and commercial importance may exact besides offering all the advantages which are expected of a modern progressive city.

It is a city of beautiful streets. There are a number of residential sections which for originality and beauty of architecture vie with the best in the land, and the principal avenue of which has the reputation of being the most beautiful thoroughfare of any city in the South.

Fifty-six miles of its streets are paved, and large appropriations have been made for further improvements in that direction. The main highways are straight as an arrow and of unusual width.

Birmingham is one of the most healthful cities of the country. Favored by an unsurpassed climate, and located upon an elevation ranging from 700 to 1,000 feet, it has added to these natural advantages, one of the finest drainage and sewerage systems in the country covering practically the entire county; and an inexhaustible water supply adequate for a city of 1,000,000 population, the

water being filtered and unsurpassed as to purity by that of any other city.

Birmingham is a city of home owners. As an evidence of its growth it can be cited that more than 20,000 homes have been built within the city limits since the census of 1900. While many of these residences can be called pretentious, a vast number of them have been erected as comfortable mod-



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Host of the General Assembly.

ern homes for those of moderate means.

The business section of the city has also been shaping itself to keep pace with the commercial and industrial growth, and the improvements in this respect are truly most wonderful. In the past six years seven steel construction office buildings, from ten to sixteen stories in height, have been erected, one of which is the largest building of its kind in the South.

Besides these, a large and handsome terminal station has recently been completed at a cost of \$2,000,000 to accommodate the ever-increasing passenger traffic of the nine trunk railroads entering the city, a list of which will be found in another article in this publication.

While coal, iron and steel represent a major portion of the industrial interests in the city and district, they by no means monopolize the industries. To begin with, Birmingham leads in the manufacture of cast iron pipe and heavy machinery. Within the city limits there are large iron pipe works, machine shops and foundries, cement plants, a cotton mill, fertilizer plants and a great number of diversified industries.

The latter include such factories as automobile, cracker and candy, coffin, carriage and buggy, furniture, harness, mattresses, sash, door and blinds, sewer pipe, gins, soil pipe, brick, etc.

To finance its extensive industrial and commercial enterprises and to supply the means for the conversion of the natural wealth of the district into marketable products, Birmingham has nineteen banks with a total capital and surplus of \$3,130,000 and deposits amounting to \$20,000,000.

While the commercial interests of the city and district are not as great as the industrial, they are quite extensive and constantly growing. Its wholesale and jobbing trade amounts to \$60,000,000 per annum.

Birmingham is also the center of the lumber trade in Alabama. It is the second largest market in the country for yellow pine. While the growing of cotton is not carried on upon

an extensive scale in Jefferson county, yet 125,000 bales of that staple commodity are handled annually in the Birmingham market.

It is self evident that a city with such large industrial and commercial interests is not lacking in great stores. The retail trade of Birmingham excels in volume of business and in the number of handsome stores that of any southern city; among the latter being the largest department store south of the Ohio River.

A city's growth and development would be incomplete and lacking in essential points, were it only of a material character. Birmingham rushing forward with tremendous strides to the front ranks of American cities, has not neglected the spiritual and intellectual welfare of its fast growing population. Over 100 churches of all denominations, 66 public schools, five of them high schools, eight private schools and nine colleges, including medical, dental, and business colleges and four public libraries are an eloquent and living proof to the city's progressive spirit of education and uplift.

Nor has Birmingham in its triumphal march to industrial and commercial greatness forgotten the care of her sick and helpless. It has two large public hospitals, a number of private sanitariums, two orphan asylums, and various other charitable institutions to care for the aged and infirm.

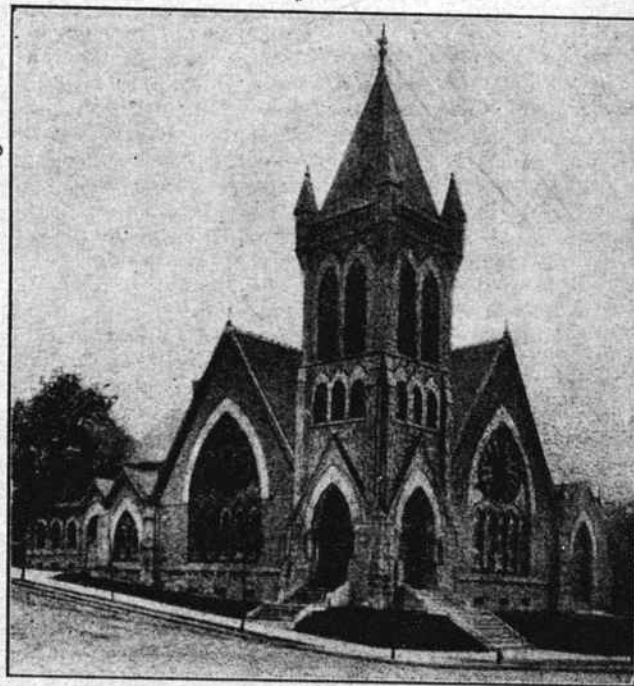
The population of Birmingham and its district is cosmopolitan, including a great number of Europeans and people from almost every State in the Union. It naturally follows that Birmingham is a cosmopolitan city in all its aspects, chiefly amongst which are its places of amusements and its social life.

Eight parks, one of them a large amusement park, provide recreation, entertainment and healthy exercise to young and old.

them almost one. The potency of this factor in the development of this city and district will be better realized when it is cited that within the territory and along the lines traversed by the street railway, comprising about 100 square miles, there are located eighty large plants, exclusive of those which are located in the central part of the city, and fifty-one coal and ore mines, all together employing 40,000 men. Among the plants are the immense steel mill with a capacity of 2,000 tons per day of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company at Ensley; the Dimmock Pipe Works with a daily capacity of 250 tons at North Birmingham; the Birmingham Machine & Foundry Company, manufacturers of heavy machinery; the Hardie-Tynes Manufacturing Company and many of the iron furnaces and rolling mills of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, the Sloss-Sheffield Company and the Republic Iron and Steel Company.

An Alphabet of Birmingham.

- A—Altitude: 700 to 1,000 feet above sea level. Climate devoid of extremes of hot and cold.
- B—Banks: Deposits \$29,000,000; and growing all the time.
- C—Coal, Cotton, Clay, Cement: Four of the natural resources making Birmingham prosperous.
- D—Development: Millions are spent yearly in enlarging output of mines and mills.
- E—Education: Birmingham has five high schools, 60 elementary schools and four colleges.
- F—Fuel: \$1.20 to \$1.60 per ton. Attractive electric power rates. The place where manufacturers prosper.
- G—Growth: Population 1900, 38,415; 1910, 132,685; increase 245.4 per cent. in ten years; 1915 city directory, 197,450.
- H—Hotels: Ample to care for tourists and conventions. Two new



South Highlands Church, where the Assembly meets.

The social side of the community is well represented by a score of clubs, four of which have handsome homes, and by many social and fraternal associations; amongst them are several German and Italian societies.

This birdseye view of Alabama's metropolis—a metropolis in the broadest sense—would not be complete without mentioning its splendid civic institutions for the protection of its citizens, its excellent newspapers and its great public utility system of street railways, light and power facilities, with its 133 miles of track, reaching in every direction and knitting city and district within a radius of fifteen miles so closely together, as to make

hotels recently placed in operation, one costing \$1,650,000.

- I—Iron: 2,000,000 tons manufactured annually. Birmingham fixes the price of iron for the world.
- J—Join: Twelve hundred citizens of Birmingham are banded together in the Chamber of Commerce for the upbuilding of the city.
- K—Knocker: The only thing that doesn't flourish in Birmingham.
- L—Lumber: Second largest yellow pine market in the South.
- M—Minerals: Birmingham is the center of the most remarkable mineral region in the world.
- N—Nineteen: The number of parks, aggregating 600 acres in area.